

## **EAST ORANGE BOARD OF HEALTH**

Regular Meeting

June 18, 2013

6:00 PM

### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER – 6:15 PM**

Board President Christine Harris read The Sunshine Law into the record and after the roll call, it was determined there was a quorum to convene the meeting.

#### **PRESENT**

Christine Harris  
C. Iman Hamilton  
Cynthia Barnes

#### **ABSENT**

Marlene Miles  
Rochelle Evans, Health Officer

#### **STAFF**

Victor Kuteyi, Program Development Specialist  
Thomas Orenge, Registered Environmental Health Specialist  
Karen LaRussa, Public Health Educator  
Kevin Harris, Asst. Corporation Counsel (covering for Ryan Linder)  
Donna Littlejohn, Board Secretary

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Member Hamilton moved to accept the April 2013 minutes. The motion was seconded by Board Member Barnes and after a roll call vote, the minutes were approved as corrected and ordered filed.

President Harris reported that Health Officer Evans and staff attended a conference for training to develop and write public health and safety ordinances.

#### **HEALTH OFFICER REPORT**

In the absence of Health Officer Rochelle Evans, Victor Kuteyi, Program Development Specialist for the Board of Health, presented the report.

Mr. Kuteyi introduced Thomas Orenge, the new Registered Environmental Health Specialist. Mr. Kuteyi noted that the goal of the Health Department is to assign a Registered Environmental Health Specialist to each of the City's five wards to ensure more effective monitoring and enforcement.

Mr. Kuteyi outlined the Department's focus for Summer 2013 programs and activities that include:

- Annual public pools inspection. Mr. Kuteyi noted that inspections will be conducted around the clock at the six (6) City Pools and one privately-owned pool to ensure safety and compliance. There was a question about the reason the City is inspecting a private pool.
- Increased monitoring of retail food stores
- Lead Poisoning Control – More incidents are reported during the summer months
- Day Care Center monitoring
- Rodent issues with the closing of the Kuzuri Kijiji Housing Complex. Area residents are complaining about an infestation of rodents.
- Mosquito Control to prevent West Nile virus
- Animal Control – The Department is committed to enforcing compliance with City Ordinances. There was discussion about “curb you dog” signs installed throughout the City.

### **HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

Health Educator Karen LaRussa highlighted the Department’s public health community outreach activities for January through May 2013:

**National Health observances** – monthly updates are sent to the Public Information Office and the City Webmaster for dissemination to the public

**Interactive Initiatives** – Thirty-six (36) participants for the “No Smoking” pledge

**NJ State Health Rankings by County** - Essex County ranks 19 out of 21 for health outcomes and 17 out of 21 for health risk factors. Ms. LaRussa reported that the Department’s health information programs for the year reflects the data outlined in the reports. She noted that she also refers to “Healthy People 2020” the nation’s 10-year goals and objectives for health promotion and disease prevention, as a resource guide.

**Asthma Academy** – Three (3) classes were held at the Cicely Tyson School to foster awareness about asthma and to teach students ways to effectively deal with the condition.

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual BJ’s Walk FOR Hope**– was held Saturday, May 18, 2013. Ms. LaRussa reported that participation is increasing with each year.

**SMOKE FREE OUTDOOR SPACES** – The City parks and public spaces are now designated as “Smoke Free.” Signs stating the ordinance and prohibition have been installed throughout the City’s park system. Ms. LaRussa reported she plans to conduct periodic audits to monitor compliance.

**Grant Programs** – The Center for Disease Control’s National Leadership Academy for Public Health has ended. The Department’s initiative to improve immunization rates for East Orange children is still in effect. The first phase of the grant to fight obesity grant is complete.

A “*Health Corner*” dedicated to health education matters has been implemented at the Main Branch of the Public Library

The Student internship program is ongoing.

**American Diabetes Association** – The American Diabetes Association has offered to do a community education series on diabetes prevention and management. Ms. LaRussa reported that Health Department staff will be meeting over the summer in anticipation of a September kickoff.

**OSHA Session** - An OSHA session on pathogens for the East Orange Police Department was held..

**East Orange Substance Abuse** – Ms. LaRussa reported that the Tobacco Cessation Program among the clients was very successful.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

After the conclusion of business, Board Member Barnes moved to adjourn the meeting.

Board Member Hamilton seconded the motion and after a voice vote, the motion carried.

The meeting ended at 7:05 PM.

Submitted by,

Donna Littlejohn  
Recording Clerk